

# RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Rite of Election of Catechumens and  
Call to Continuing Conversion



The Rite for Outside of Mass  
in the context of a Liturgy of the Word

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Sign of the Cross and Greeting

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.** Amen.

**The Lord be with you.** And with your spirit.

### Introduction – Pastor

**My friends, we gather with great joy this day to celebrate the Rite of Election for our catechumens who are preparing for baptism.**

**We are also here to celebrate the Call of Continuing Conversion for our candidates who are seeking full communion into the Catholic Church.**

**Those of us who gather here as godparents, sponsors, family and friends walk this Lenten journey with those who seek to become members of our Church. We too must hear the call to conversion and renew our baptism.**

### Opening Prayer

**Let us pray.**

**O God, who though you are ever the cause of salvation of the human race now gladden your people with grace in still great measure, look mercifully, we pray, upon your chosen ones, that your compassionate and protecting help may defend both those yet to be born anew and those already reborn.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.** Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings from the Mass of the First Sunday of Lent

**First Reading** - Genesis 9: 8-15, followed by a period of silence.

**Responsorial Psalm** – Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 “Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.”

**Second Reading** – 1 Peter 3:18-22, followed by a period of silence.

**Gospel** – Mark 1:12-15

**Homily** - Pastor

## CELEBRATION OF ELECTION

### Presentation of the Catechumens

A parishioner, preferably one involved with running the RCIA program, steps forward to present the names of those to be called forward. They say the following:

*Reverend Father, Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom I now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that after the celebration of the scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist.*

The Pastor invites the catechumens forward:

**Those who are to be chosen in Christ,  
please come forward when called,  
together with your godparent.**

The parishioner/lector will then call each person forward by name. Each catechumen comes into the sanctuary and greets the Pastor. The catechumen then goes to the altar and signs their name to the Book of the Elect. They then take their place in or near the sanctuary with their godparent. The catechumens stand in a line before the Pastor, with the sponsors behind them.

## Affirmation by the Godparents

The Pastor addresses **the assembly**.

**My dear friends,  
these Catechumens have asked  
to be initiated into the sacramental life of the Church this  
Easter.**

**God's holy Church wishes to know whether these  
catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled  
among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And  
so I speak first of all to you their godparents.**

He then addresses **the godparents** in the sanctuary:

**Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by  
the Church?** They have.

**Have they responded to the word and begun to walk in  
God's presence?** They have.

**Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers  
and sisters and joined them in prayer?** They have.

## Affirmation by the Community

The Pastor addresses **the entire assembly**:

**And now, I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this  
assembly:**

**Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about  
these catechumens and include them in your prayer and  
affection as we move toward Easter?** We are.

## Invitation and Enrollment of Names

The Pastor addresses the catechumens in the sanctuary:

**And now, catechumens, I address you.  
Your own godparents and teachers, and this entire  
community, have spoken in your favor.  
The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment  
and calls you to the Easter sacraments.**

**Since you have already heard the call of Christ,  
you must now express your response to that call clearly  
and in the presence of the whole Church.**

**Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the  
Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation  
and Eucharist? We do.**

When they have responded to the question, the Pastor says to the catechumens:

**Then offer your names for enrollment.**

The Deacon receives the Book of the Elect from the altar and takes it to the Pastor.

## Act of Admission or Election

The Pastor touches the books as a sign of accepting them and removes his hand and says:

**My friends, I now declare you to be members of the Elect,  
to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter  
Vigil.**

The Pastor says to the Elect:

**God is always faithful to those he calls:  
now it is your duty, as it is ours,  
to be faithful to him in return and to strive  
courageously to reach the fullness of truth,  
which your election opens up before you.**

The Elect respond: Thanks be to God.

The Pastor then turns to **the Sponsors**:

**Godparents, you have spoken in favor of these catechumens: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.**

The Deacon then says: *Let the Elect and their godparents return to their places.*

## CELEBRATION OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

### Presentation of the Candidates

When the catechumens and godparents are clear of the sanctuary, parishioner/lector steps forward to present the names of those to be called forward.

Then the parishioner/lector says to the Pastor:

*Reverend Father, I now present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation. They too have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to confirmation and the Eucharist.*

The Pastor invites the candidates forward:

**Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, please come forward when called, together with your sponsor.**

Then the reading of the individual names follows.

### Affirmation by the Sponsors

The Pastor speaks to **the assembly**.

**My dear friends, these candidates, our brothers and sisters, have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.**

**The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, before these candidates are accepted for the celebration of the sacraments of confirmation and the Eucharist at Easter, it is important that the Church hear testimony about their readiness.**

The Pastor addresses **the sponsors**:

**Sponsors, I ask you:**

**Have they faithfully listened to the apostles instruction proclaimed by the Church?** Sponsors: They have.

**Have they come to a deeper appreciation for their baptism, in which they were joined to Christ and his Church?**  
Sponsors: They have.

**Have they reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, which is their heritage, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer?** Sponsors: They have.

**Have they advanced in a life of love and service of others?**  
Sponsors: They have.

Affirmation by the Community

The Pastor addresses **the entire assembly**:

**And now, I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:**

**Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these candidates and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?** We are.

Act of Recognition

The Pastor addresses **the candidates in the sanctuary**:

**My friends, the Church recognizes your desire**

**to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit  
and to have a place at Christ's eucharistic table.  
Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance.  
Hear the Lord's call to conversion  
and be faithful to your baptismal covenant.**

The candidates respond: **Thanks be to God.**

**The Pastor addresses the sponsors:**

**Sponsors, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the Church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them this Lent to the joys of the Easter mysteries.**

**The Deacon says:** *Let the candidates and their sponsors please return to their places.*

**Intercessions for the Elect and the Candidates**

**Then the Pastor introduces the intercessions:**

**My brothers and sisters, in beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. These elect and candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, will look to us for an example of Christian renewal.**

**Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.**

**Petitions: Led by the Deacon.**

That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten season to renew ourselves through self-denial and works of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.

That our catechumens may always remember this day of their election and be grateful for the blessings they have received from heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

That our candidates preparing for confirmation and the eucharist may grow daily in fidelity to their baptismal covenant, let us pray to the Lord.

That their teachers may always convey the beauty of God's word to those who search for it, let us pray to the Lord.

That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

That their families may help them to follow the promptings of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That our community, during this Lenten period, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.

That those who have not yet overcome their hesitation may trust in Christ and come to join our community as our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.

## Prayer over the Elect and the Candidates (Concluding Prayer)

The Pastor with hands **outstretched over the elect and the candidates:**

**Father of love and power,  
it is your will to establish everything in Christ  
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.  
Guide these chosen ones:  
Strengthen them in their vocation,  
build them into the kingdom of your Son,  
and seal them with the spirit of your promise.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING RITE

### Greeting, Blessing and Dismissal

**The Lord be with you.** And with your spirit.

Deacon: *Bow down for the blessing.* (pause briefly in silence)

The Pastor with hands outstretched:

**May the God of all consolation  
bless you in every way  
and grant you peace all the days of your life. Amen.**

**May God free you from all anxiety  
and strengthen your hearts in love. Amen.**

**May God enrich you  
with gifts of faith, hope and love,  
so that what you do in this life  
will bring you to the happiness of everlasting life. Amen.**

**May Almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.*

*All: Thanks be to God.*